CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for transferring data received from a fax device over a telephone line, comprising:

a telephone line interface to receive an incoming fax transmission sent with an auxiliary data field;

a fax processor to convert the fax transmission into a fax image; and

a computing device to execute a program that includes a function which converts the fax image into a computer-readable format, a function which reads the data field received with the fax transmission, and a function that causes a portion of the fax image to be routed, in said computer-readable format, to an email address via an email message, wherein information from the data field is to be inserted into a from-field of the email message.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the computing device is to execute a further function which includes a decoding viewer in an email transmission to a recipient of said message, to facilitate viewing of said message.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein the computing device is to send the decoding viewer only if it determines that the recipient is a first-time recipient.

4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the information inserted into the from-field of the email message is a return email address of a sender of said fax transmission.

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5.　　A system for transferring data received from a fax device over telephone line, comprising:

a telephone line interface to receive an incoming fax transmission;

a fax processor to convert the fax transmission into a fax image; and

a computing device to execute a program that includes a function which converts the fax image into a computer-readable format, a function which extracts header information from the fax image, a function that performs a look-up operation using the header information to derive an email address, and a function that causes a portion of the fax image to be routed, in said computer-readable format, to the email address, wherein the computing device is to execute a further function which includes a decoding viewer in an email transmission to a recipient of said message, to facilitate viewing of said message.

6.　　The system of claim 5 wherein the incoming fax transmission has an auxiliary data field, and the computing device is to insert information from the data field into a from-field of an email message in which said portion of the fax image is to be routed.

7.　　The system of claim 5 wherein the information inserted into the from-field of the email message is a return email address of a sender of said fax transmission.

8.　　A system for transferring data received from a fax device over a telephone line, comprising:

a telephone line interface to receive an incoming fax transmission including a data field from a sender;

a fax processor to convert the fax transmission into a fax image; and

a computing device to execute a program that includes a function which converts the fax image into a computer-readable format, a function which reads the data field received with the fax transmission, and a function that causes a portion of the fax image to be routed, in said computer-readable format, to an email address via an email message, wherein the sender's return information taken from the data field is to be inserted into the email message.

9.   The system of claim 8 wherein the computing device is to execute a further function that includes a decoding viewer in an email transmission to a recipient of said message, to facilitate viewing of said message.

10.   The system of claim 9 wherein the computing device is to send the decoding viewer only if it determines that the recipient is a first-time recipient.

11.   The system of claim 8 wherein the information is to be inserted into a from-field of the email message.